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## Past Issues

### Online Training Available:

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

### Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

### Contact Us:

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

### Faith Oi

[foi@ufl.edu](mailto:foi@ufl.edu)

### Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman

[gillettk@ufl.edu](mailto:gillettk@ufl.edu)

## Florida School IPM Focus- Good Neighbors

Can neighbors impact each other's pest management practices? Can you do IPM if the harborage and clutter next door is the source of rodents in the neighborhood? Being a good neighbor requires two-way communication. Being a good neighbor also applies to how you handle pest management at the perimeter of your school. If you have a weed management program that involves using herbicide what do you do when you share a fence with a neighbor? Some school districts may already have plans in place on how you can communicate with neighbors about these and other issues. If your school district does not please consider some of these practices for improving communication with your neighbors. Remember that communication is a critical part of a successful IPM program!

As always, for more information on pests or on developing an IPM program for your school or district please visit our [website](#).

## Identification of Introductions

The first step in IPM is to identify the pest you are working with and to determine if it is in fact a pest. The next step is to determine if there are any modifications you can make so an area is less suitable for the pest to live and reproduce in. Modifications can be as simple as cleaning up landscape debris that has been piled behind a bleacher or as complex as communication with a neighbor whose activities may be to the root of problems on your campus.

We often ask people to "think like a pest". Do this while you look for areas that might cause trouble for your program or for your neighbors. Do you see anything that might make the area more suitable to pest development? Once you have identified problem areas you need to act on them. Below are some ways schools around the state communicate with their neighbors followed with some tips on communicating effectively.

## Know the Facts: How you can Communicate

**What are other schools doing?** In a recent statewide survey, the following practices were mentioned as ways school personnel communicated with their immediate neighbors and their community. These practices are a wonderful way to reach out and keep relationships strong in your community.

Community Email Fliers  
Marquis Neighborhood  
News Paper Parent  
Calls Phone Messages Public  
er School Sign Surrounding Synvoice

- Phone call or in some instances, we walk to the houses.
- We send flyers and information to the neighboring Home Owners Associations.
- When we had construction going on the construction company actually went door to door to speak with neighbors about some of the items going on that would affect them.

- We post activities on our marquee.
- Community stakeholder input is crucial. Community members are encouraged join and attend monthly meetings.
- We use our school billboard out front, send correspondences home with students as well as use our automated phone system to record messages for our stakeholders.
- Our school newspaper is also used to convey upcoming events.
- We post articles in a neighborhood paper.

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## Emphasis on Communication

### Communication is pest management.



- Make sure you have good etiquette. Always approach a neighbor with a positive attitude even if they are blaming you for a pest problem on their property.
- As always, take off your hat and sunglasses if you are talking to a neighbor.
- If you are calling a neighbor be sure to clearly indicate your name and your position with the school.
- Written communication should always include a number or email address where folks can reach you as well as a school logo or name and address.
- Look for fixes that could be mutually beneficial for both of you. Remember that you might not like the brush pile in their back yard and they might not like that the basketball court lights are attracting insects at night.
- Never take the stance of "it's my way or the highway".

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## News!



We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don't have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives, please keep the information flowing! Please send news items to **Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman**.

Visit our website for back issues of **Florida School IPM News**. You can scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone or tablet to get there faster. You will need a QR code reader!